

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:364
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
BAN ON THE SALE OF COSMETICS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether general cosmetics like talcum powder, perfume, soap, nail-polish and lipstick are harmful to health and these products can cause cancer also;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take steps for cautioning the consumers about the side-effects of using these cosmetics;
- (c) if so, whether the Government also proposes to take steps to ban the production and sale of these artificial inorganic cosmetics; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b): No specific report indicating that general cosmetics like talcum powder, perfume, soap, nail polish and lipstick are harmful to health and can cause cancer are available with the Government. However, under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, the cosmetics manufactures are required to indicate on the label of the product where a hazard exists, the following information:

- (a) Adequate directions for safe use.
- (b) Any warning, caution or special direction required to be observed by the consumer.
- (c) A statement of the names and quantities of the ingredients that are hazardous or poisonous.

The enforcement of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 is the responsibility of the State Governments.

Further, it is the responsibility of the manufacturer to satisfy himself regarding the safety of the product before releasing it for sale. Only those chemical ingredients may be incorporated as raw materials and adjuncts which when incorporated are considered dermatologically safe for use in cosmetic products. Such cosmetic raw material and adjuncts has been classified by BIS into two categories:

- (i) Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) and
- (ii) Generally Not Recognized As Safe (GNRAS)

For evaluating the safety of a new formulation or of a new raw material used in old formulation reference is to be made to IS 4011:1997, methods of tests for safety evaluation of cosmetics.

(c)&(d): No such proposal is under consideration of the Government to prohibit/ban the production and sale of said cosmetics.